# Voices from the Ground Invitation



Learning from the implementation of the KAP Wildlife project in Latin America

Maria Teresa Solis Soto, Carlos Roberto Vásquez Almazán, Pilar Mansilla, Marcia Adler, and Denise Siqueira de Carvalho

Wednesday, June 26, 4pm-5:30pm CEST

#### Dear Colleagues and Alliance members,

We are delighted to invite you to another Alliance Voices from the Ground Event. The project 'Knowledge, Attitude and Practice' (KAP) wildlife aims to identify knowledge, attitudes, and practices towards the risk of zoonotic diseases, wildlife trade, and consumption in different populations living in urban and rural areas, including indigenous communities, of Latin America. Mixed methods were implemented in lowland areas of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, and Guatemala: A quantitative baseline information, in-deep interviews with key stakeholders and focus group discussions and round-tables. Based on its results, we have developed innovative approaches, according to local context, to educate communities, and co-construct behavioral change approaches to raise awareness and change behavior in the population. The event will provide a platform to share key findings and experiences from our project and fieldwork: a project overview, presenting design methodologies, main results, and upcoming steps. Be part of a dialogue that highlights the importance of community-based strategies and participatory approaches in addressing wildlife conservation and health.

#### **Objective**

Facilitate a space for the exchange of experiences, challenges and facilitators identified for the implementation of the KAP Wildlife project in different cultural contexts of Latin America in Bolivia, Brazil, Chile and Guatemala.

#### **Target group**

Partners of the International Alliance against Health Risks in Wildlife Trade, researchers, members of non-governmental organizations working on issues of wildlife conservation and prevention of zoonoses in different countries (Asia, Africa, Europe, LA)

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### **About the Speakers**

María Teresa Solís Soto is a medical doctor at Universidad Mayor Real y Pontificia de San Francisco Xavier de Chuquisaca, Bolivia, with training in public health, epidemiology, and international health. She has worked on different public health issues, focusing on the epidemiology of chronic diseases, health, and work conditions in urban and rural areas of Latin America and recently in projects with the One Health approach. Their projects implemented quantitative and qualitative approaches and, in a particular way, community-based interventions. Dr. Solis-Soto is working actively in international collaborative initiatives, leading research and training projects.

**Carlos Roberto Vásquez Almazán** holds a degree in Biology from the University of San Carlos in Guatemala and a PhD in Biological Sciences from the National Autonomous University of Mexico, UNAM. He has studied, monitored and described new species of amphibians and reptiles in Guatemala. He is currently Professor of Zoology and Researcher and Curator of the National Amphibian and Reptile Collection at the Natural History Museum and School of Biology.

**Pilar Mansilla** is a Sociologist and Master in Social Sciences with extensive experience using quantitative and qualitative research methods, community development, productive and educational training. She has been part of multidisciplinary teams, observing the social reality, elaborating diagnoses, and designing and implementing national pilot programs, and quality management systems. She participated in the creation of the Universidad de O'Higgins in Rancagua, Chile.

Marcia Adler is a biologist, trained in Germany, with extensive experience in the research of native stingless bees, having worked in the areas of biodiversity, ecology, and the evaluation of the impacts of fires in their populations. Additionally, she has participated in various development programs through meliponiculture in rural communities. Currently, she is a researcher at the Unit of Science and Technology at the Universidad Mayor Real y Pontificia de San Francisco Xavier de Chuquisaca, Bolivia.

**Denise Siqueira de Carvalho**, professor at the Department of Community Health at the Federal University of Paraná in Brazil, is currently on the permanent teaching staff of the Postgraduate Program in Public Health and a collaborator at the Center for International Health at Ludwig-Maximilians University in Munich. Her experience in the area of Medicine is related to One Health, with an emphasis on diagnostics, epidemiological surveillance of communicable diseases, information systems and evaluation of health services.

#### About the Alliance

The <u>International Alliance against Health Risks in Wildlife Trade</u> serves as an inclusive and interdisciplinary platform to discuss challenges and formulate solutions vis-á-vis human-wildlife interfaces and associated health risks and the emergence and spread of zoonotic pathogens from wildlife. The *Alliance* is aiming to enhance international and national awareness, knowledge, policies and action, not least by narrowing the gap between science and implementation.

We are very much looking forward to the event. Please feel free to forward and share this invitation with interested colleagues.

Best regards,

## Secretariat of the International Alliance against Health Risks in Wildlife Trade

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